

VZCZCXYZ0012
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHWR #1448 3581333
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
O 231333Z DEC 08
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7529
INFO RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 0503
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1438
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

S E C R E T WARSAW 001448

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/23/2018
TAGS: [NATO](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [MARR](#) [PL](#)
SUBJECT: POLAND MIGHT RE-EVALUATE TROOP LEVELS IN
AFGHANISTAN

REF: STATE 131480

Classified By: Acting Political Counselor Craig M. Conway
for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (S) Warsaw fully recognizes the importance of next year's presidential election in Afghanistan and will do its best to maintain the security and integrity of the electoral process, especially in Ghazni Province, where approximately 1600 Polish troops are stationed. Roman Strzemiecki and Dominik Malek of the MFA's Asia-Pacific Department (responsible for Afghanistan) told us December 23 that the GoP had not yet explored in depth the security requirements for next year's election. They welcomed reftel information on NATO planning estimates, which they said the GoP will consider as part of its deliberations.

¶2. (SBU) In the meantime, Defense Minister Bogdan Klich told the media in Krakow yesterday that Poland had no plans to increase the number of troops in Afghanistan. He revealed, however, that the Ministry might consider changes in the number of troops after an inspection of the Polish contingent in January. Our MFA interlocutors were not aware of Klich's remarks in Krakow but agreed that a re-evaluation of troop levels might occur early next year, especially in the run-up to the presidential election.
ASHE